United Nations A/54/888

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 May 2000
English
Original: French

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 116 (b)
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Colombia, issued on 23 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 116 (b).

(*Signed*) Antonio **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-45503 (E) 020600 020600

Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Colombia, issued on 23 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union expresses its deep concern at the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Colombia, in particular the increasing number of inhuman acts of violence and atrocities affecting primarily the civilian population, such as those which occurred recently in Gigante and Chiquinquirá.

The European Union strongly condemns the persistent grave violations and human rights abuses as well as acts of terrorism and breaches of international humanitarian law committed by all armed groups and emphasizes the need to bring those responsible for human rights violations to justice.

While supporting the current peace process in Colombia, the European Union urges all armed groups to end all acts of violence, to respect human rights, to comply with international humanitarian law and to engage in serious and constructive peace talks with the Government, with a view to achieving a sustainable peace in Colombia.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and Iceland and Liechtenstein, European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.